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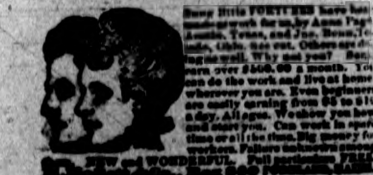
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### AN AUSTRALIAN PLAGUE.

Terrible Ravages of the Locust Throughout the Land.

Desperate Efforts of the People to Destroy the Pest-Whole Colonies Laid in Waste by the Dreadful Insects.

In order to check, if possible, the annual plague of locusts that devour the herbage and blast the hopes of graziers, farmers and fruit-growers to a greater or less extent in December, says the Glasgow Herald, the government of Victoria, Australia, proclaimed November 7 and 8 holidays for scholars and schoolmasters in the rural districts, in order that they might co-operate with the settlers in destroying the young locusts in the early stages of their development, before they have become equipped with wings, enabling them to take flight over the country to begin their work of devastation.

With this end in view preparations were made in numerous parts of the interior to destroy the pest in various ways, such as by beating with branches the bodes in the fields where the as yet wingless creatures were known to exist, or harrowing the ground, or turning flocks of sheep upon the land, and also by spreading straw over the plague spots and setting fire to it. In such a vast destruction was done to the armies of the young locusts in the early stage of their existence.

It was seen, however, that the raid upon the vermin should have been made somewhat earlier, as numbers were already so far advanced as to be on the wing on their mission of mischief, and besides, the attack upon them was not so generally made as was desirable in some districts of Victoria. The north of Murray comparatively little effort was put forth to cope with the evil, owing to the fact that on the New South Wales and South Australian side of the Murray the bulk of the land taken up with large squatting runs, and population is sparse there, thus leaving the ravaging locusts almost unopposed to propagate.

People here can hardly conceive how ravenous the locust plague is in these colonies. Recently the reports came at these creatures massed themselves thickly along some of the lines of railways that, although the brakes were shut down, the trains could not be brought to a stand until they had gone a half a mile beyond the station, owing to the multitudes crushed beneath the wheels, causing the trains to pass along as if the rails were covered with oil. The wheels actually slid along the rails. In many of the northern towns the inhabitants had to close their doors to keep out the invading hosts. The plague has now fairly begun work. In the southern parts of New South Wales and some of the northern portions of Victoria the outlook is ominous.

In and around Branawatha (Victoria) the insects are spreading in swarms and causing great destruction. A resident of that district reports that in some parts of the country in a buggy the wheels of his vehicle were completely imbedded in masses of young caterpillars and grasshoppers, which on many extensive areas "covered the whole surface to a depth of about four inches, like a green and undulating coat of green paint."

Where the country presented any depression it was found impossible to pass with a buggy, and in several favorable localities, such as low-lying lands, etc., the insects were surging about in masses some two or three feet deep. The ground in their wake is quite destitute of grass. Such are some of the breeding grounds from which the fully developed locusts and destroy other parts of the country.

In the Rutherglen district (Victoria) the locusts are doing great damage, eating up the grass and invading the extensive vineyards. One vineyard owner reports his entire crop as spoiled. The grapes are not yet fully formed, but the locusts are busy stripping the leaves and ringing the bunches, the result being that these wither and die. So dense are the insects that work has to be suspended, as the horses will not face them. Reports come from the Albury district that the locusts are attacking the flags on the wheat stalks, and in some instances the wheat heads have been eaten off. One report states that in the locality of Walbundrie, about thirty miles from Albury, the pest is traveling southward, in the direction of the Murray, in columns several miles wide, partially obscuring the sky, and advancing at the rate of ten miles in twenty-four hours, resting to devour green spots, and then winging their way to fresh pastures.

#### Looking Ahead.

A curious instrument of writing exists in Dunkirk, Ind. It appears that two early lovers failed, for some reason unexplained, to marry, but married others. Lately a written agreement has been signed up, in absolute secrecy, providing for their future marriage to each other in the event they survive their present companions. This contract further provides a liquidated damage of five thousand dollars upon failure of contract, as provided. They set forth in their contract that, owing to respect for children, etc., no divorce shall be asked for, but that they shall meet in Providence to remove present matrimonial slayers.

### THE HORSE.

Why That Animal Was Driven Before It Was Harnessed.

Canon Taylor, in that most interesting book "The Origin of the Aryans," has raised once more a question which has often attracted the attention of scholars, especially those interested in the Homeric poems, says the Academy. Why is it that in the earliest records of the Greeks, Egyptians, Assyrians, Indians, and Celts we find the horse used for drawing chariots, but not yet for riding?

Canon Taylor remarks: "It is curious to notice at how late a period men first ventured to mount 'the swift one,' and he goes on to say that there is nothing in the 'Rig Veda' to show that the art of riding was practiced, and that our first notice of it is in the 'Zend Avesta.' The Homeric Greeks employed the horse almost exclusively for the chariot, riding being only alluded to in some two or three isolated passages, as when Odysseus and Diomedes rode to the ships the horses of Rhesus which they had captured. This, however, shows that it was hardly from fear that the Greeks did not habitually ride instead of drive their steeds. The same remark applies to the ancient Britons, who, according to the ancient accounts, performed wonderful feats of agility in running out and standing upon the pole of the chariot.

The true solution may probably be this: The primitive horse that ranged over the plains of Europe and Asia was too small when he was first domesticated to carry a man for any great time or distance on his back. This, of course, would render him practically useless for warfare. There is ample evidence to prove that the primitive wild horse was of very diminutive size. Probably of all his descendants the Shetland pony is his best representative. Canon Taylor says (speaking of the enormous deposit of their bones found at Solitude, near Macon, which contains from twenty thousand to forty thousand skeletons):

"This primitive horse was a diminutive animal, not much larger than an ass, standing about thirteen hands high, the largest specimens not exceeding fourteen hands. But the head was of disproportionate size, and the teeth were very powerful. He resembled the tarpan or wild horse of the Caspian steppes."

Even long after he had been domesticated he remained very small, as is proved by the bits made of bronze and staghorn which have been found at Moringen and Auvier, which belong to the latest bronze age. "These bits are only three and one half inches wide, and could now be hardly used for a child's pony."

Let us now turn to Herodotus, where, speaking of the unknown regions to the north of the Danube, he says that the only people he can learn of as inhabiting the region are called Sitynnæ, who wear the costume of the Medes, and whose horses are shaggy all over the body, being covered with hair to a depth of five fingers, and are small and flat nosed and incapable of carrying men, but when yoked under chariots they are very swift, and that the natives accordingly drive chariots. This description of the external appearance of the little horses of the Sitynnæ of central Europe agrees very well with that of the sketches found near Macon. The simous shape of the head tallies well with the ugly shaped skull and powerful jaws of the bone deposits.

We can hardly doubt that we have here primitive horses such as those whose diminutive bits have been found in the later lake dwellings of Switzerland. It seems to me then that the reason Herodotus here assigns for the fact that this tribe of central Europe drove their horses instead of riding them is the true explanation why all early peoples alike employed the horse for driving long before they ever habitually practiced riding. It was only after generations of domestication that, under careful feeding and breeding, the horse became of sufficient size to carry a man on his back with ease. That size was held to be of great importance by the Homeric Greeks is proved by Illad x, 436.

#### A Pictured Gem.

One of the strangest lapidarian freaks that has ever come within the knowledge of diamond experts is now on view at the Burns Hotel, in Kimberly, South Africa. The stone, says the Jeweler's Weekly, is in shape and size like a pigeon's egg, of a dark brown color externally, and at first sight opaque. If viewed in a dark place, with a candle or other light so placed that the rays pass through the stone before falling on the retina, however, one sees distinctly the image of a man from the waist upward. Turning the pebble, he sees at another point a woman's face, partly concealed by heavy tresses, and yet, again, on another portion of the surface being applied to the eye, a moonlit cloud sketch is clearly delineated.

The stone was found in a debris wash up, and £10 10s have been refused for it. A Mr. Bergama, a debris washer, was the finder of the remarkable stone.

#### The Term "Bank."

The term "bank" is derived from the Italian "banco," a seat or bench, because the early dealers in money were accustomed to sit on benches in the market places of the principal towns. The earliest public bank established in modern Europe was that of Venice, which was founded in 1187.

### A SMUGGLER'S PARADISE.

How Chinamen Gain Access to the United States.

Looking at the map one may see that the northwest corner of the state of Washington is torn off, and the space that is left is filled with water, dotted with an archipelago. The island of Vancouver fits partially into the gaping corner as if it had been torn out by some gigantic convulsion. The tatters and debris of the rent form the archipelago. Our national interest centered in that corner long ago when that portion of the boundary was in dispute, and the tension of a war feeling was only relieved when a foreign arbitrator settled the boundary, and gave us the island of San Juan, the most important in the group. The city of Victoria, writes Julian Ralph in Harper's Magazine, confines nearly all the population on that corner of Vancouver island; the city of Vancouver is the main settlement on the British Columbia shore, and on our borders are such little places as Whistler, New Dungeness, and Port Angeles, in the state of Washington. Port Townsend, on Puget sound, is the principal American town near by, and the headquarters of the seamy force of customs officials who are supposed to guard against the smuggling, and who are entitled to the presumption that they are doing their best in this direction. Victoria has only twenty thousand population, Vancouver fewer still, and the islands only here and there a house. Deer abound upon these islands, which are heavily timbered, and the waterways between them feel the keels of but few vessels—of none at all, except the smallest craft, outside the main channels. It would be hard to imagine a more difficult region to police, or a fairer field for smugglers. Old London itself has scarcely a greater tangle of crooked and confusing thoroughfares than this archipelago possesses, and these waterways are so narrow and sheltered that more carmen can safely and easily travel many of them. It is a smuggler's paradise.

Those who transport the Chinamen are all white men. The resident Chinese are not as their confederates and as the agents of the smuggling, but do no part of the actual smuggling, that is to say, the boating. The great smuggling is of opium. The introduction of the Chinese themselves is of small account, so far as the defiance of our laws is concerned, as compared with the introduction of opium. Yet that extensive business also is carried on by white men. The Chinese can not pass to and fro as white men can, therefore they leave the traffic to the whites.

These white men are of the class one would expect to find in such business. A government employe in Victoria told me that I would "be surprised to know what important and respectable persons were connected with the smuggling," but as he gave me no further enlightenment, and as I failed to obtain any proof that any number of so-called respectable men profited directly by the business, I did not and do not believe that there are many such. Those who do the smuggling of the Chinese are unprincipled and reckless characters. They make their bargains with those Chinese whose business it is to arrange for the carriage of their countrymen into our country. The boats employed are small sail-boats, and quite as small steam-launches. When the owner of one of these boats has secured a sufficient number of Chinese to make the venture profitable if it succeeds, the journey is made at night, without compliance with the law which requires vessels sailing after dark to display lights at their sides. At times the contrabands are landed near Whistler, at times near Port Angeles or New Dungeness. San Juan island, within our border, is only twelve miles from Victoria, and has a few Chinese resident upon it. At times Chinamen are carried there. Once there they can cross to the mainland with more freedom, and with a possibility of obtaining testimony to the effect that they are and have long been domiciled on American soil. The smugglers charge twenty dollars to twenty-five dollars for landing each Chinaman on our coast; twenty dollars is the ordinary and usual charge. Wherever the Chinamen are landed they find either men of their own nationality to secrete them, or white men awaiting their arrival, and ready to take them to some Chinese quarters. Once on land the danger of arrest is greatly lessened, and after a newly-smuggled Chinaman has made his way to one of the larger towns or cities near the coast, his fear of detention by our government vanishes entirely.

#### American Dentists in England.

American dentists are very popular in England. Their advertisements are always to be seen in the London Times and other English papers. It is also to be noticed that English dentists announce their readiness to "perform all operations with the latest American improvements." In Paris, likewise, American dentists are greatly favored with French patronage, and several of them have made fortunes by their skill.

#### The Original "Sucker."

"The word 'sucker' originated at the Galena mines in Illinois in the fall of 1823, at a time when there was a great exodus. A large returning party, while boarding a steamer at the Galena wharf, was asked, 'Where ye goin'?' 'To hum,' was the reply. 'Well,' was the rejoinder of an old miner, 'ye put me in mind of suckers, they go up the river in the spring, spawn, and all return down ag'in in the fall.'"











## THE CARDIFF GIANT.

History of the Hoax by the Man Who Made It.

A Public Swindle That Brought to Its Perpetrator Considerable Money—How It Happened.

By the announcement of the recent death of George Hull, styled in the press dispatches "the originator of the Cardiff Giant hoax," it was recalled to the memory of a reporter that he had once heard him tell in detail the whole story of that celebrated and marvelous fraud. The reporter, says the Chicago Tribune, was at the time at Birmingham, N. Y., reporting the trial of Edward Ruloff, who was finally hanged in that city for murder. At that time the exposure of the Cardiff giant was a matter of the recent past, and the story that Hull told one January night to a party gathered around the huge open hearth fire in the sitting-room of the hotel had not only the merit of being new, but was likewise entitled to the credit of being highly interesting.

As he gave the story he had the idea of the Cardiff giant in his mind as a good speculation long before he took any practical steps in the matter. Finally he decided to undertake the job of making a petrified giant that would amaze the multitude, puzzle the learned, and fill his own pockets with dollars. Hull had no knowledge of the art of sculpture and was totally ignorant of the science of anatomy. First of all he set himself resolutely to work to remedy these defects. He had considerable natural aptitude with the chisel, and he soon acquired sufficient skill to hew out a figure that was to be put before the public as a relic of an age so prehistoric that nobody would be likely to closely criticize its proportions. But Hull said he knew that no matter how ancient was the era in which his giant lived he had to have pores in his skin to pass the scrutiny of even the unlearned, and it was the making of these pores, he claimed, which required more time and labor than all the other work he did in the manufacture of the giant. His work occupied many weeks, and was all done in an out-house attached to his home near Birmingham. When it was at last finished he made preparations for its burial, in order that when brought to public view it might show the proper evidence of antiquity. To effect that he buried it in the side of a hill on his farm and only a few yards from the "studio" where it had been chiseled out of a huge block of stone that had been dug out of that same hill. In all this work, huge and heavy as the uncut stone and the giant hewn out of it were, he had only the assistance of one man, a sled and a yoke of oxen in moving them; the man who helped him move the stone was a newly-arrived German immigrant whom he had employed as a farmhand, and had no curiosity about the matter, and the one who helped him bury the "statue" was another man of the same kind.

Hull allowed the statue to remain in the ground two years, he said, before he considered it to be in proper condition to be "accidentally" discovered by himself, dug out, and the huge petrification brought into public view to amaze and perplex people in general, but to delight the antiquarians who found in it an argument to uphold some of their most cherished theories. The work of Hull got its name from the fact that near the spot where it was buried and was afterwards resurrected was a small hamlet called Cardiff. Therefore it was as the "Cardiff giant" that the roughly-hewn image began and ended its public career, which was not of long continuance; it was, however, for a period sufficiently lengthy to enable Hull to make considerable money out of the thing. According to his own story as he told it that night he might have made more with much less trouble if he had accepted an offer Barnum made him for the giant soon after its appearance in public. Of course exposure in the end was sure to come and did come, but that would have made no difference to Barnum; as an item in the "great show" it would always have had value, but with Hull the case was different; the truth becoming known the giant was forced into retirement. But he declared to his auditors that night in the Birmingham hotel that the Cardiff giant, which he averred was then lying in the shed where it was made, had brought him more money than he had ever dared hope it would and that he was entirely content with the result of the venture so far as its pecuniary returns were concerned.

### Serenaded the Editor.

The editor of the Aroostook (Me.) North Star was serenaded by a cow a few nights ago. He says: "She affectionately herself directly under our bedroom window and began to ring the changes and variations on the most unearthly and discordant cow bell that ever was turned out of a foundry. 'Ting-a-ling, clapy-clap, ding-dong, whang-bang, tickle, tickle.' 'No had been expecting that the addition of a prominent North Aroostook granger to the editorial management of the Star would elicit some agricultural response, but we had not expected the response to take the shape of a serenade by an old cow at two o'clock in the morning.' After listening to the doleful and distracting sound for half an hour the editor arose in his wrath and his nightgown and with a club, convinced the cow that she had waked up the wrong journalist. Such is a newspaper man's life in northern Maine.

### Peasant Proprietorship in Europe.

Inquiries instituted by the British foreign office regarding peasant proprietorship in Europe give some interesting results. A period of forty years is covered. Everywhere there is an increasing desire to purchase land. This is shown remarkably in France, where, although the actual cultivating population has diminished, the proprietors have grown in number to the displacement of tenants.

## WELL-KNOWN SAYINGS.

The Origin of Some Phrases That Have Become Proverbs.

It will be found on examination that most sayings may be traced back to a literary origin, says the New York Sun. What more common, popular maxim is there than that "Procrastination is the thief of time?" Yet it is the first line of that most deadly dull of books, Young's "Night Thoughts." Crowds of people have been misled in imagining that "The Lord tempests the wind to the shorn lamb" is a biblical saying, yet it is only as old as Sterne's "Sentimental Journey." Everybody knows about the man who read "Hamlet" at an advanced age, and said he would have liked it if it had not been so full of "chestnuts." The fact is that a great part of it has become proverbial, and so common property. We no longer have to read the play to imbibe a lot of its philosophy, for it is floating in the air about us.

On the other hand, some sayings undoubtedly have a popular origin. A splendid example of the evolution of one occurs in the old testament, in the history of Saul. When the future first king of Israel appeared among the prophets the people were astonished. He had been of a rather frivolous disposition. Some man in the crowd exclaimed: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" The expression caught on, and it has been a familiar saying ever since.

We have among ourselves a very good example of the same sort in the expression: "A good enough Morgan till after election."

A difficulty here meets us. How is it that among eastern illiterate nations proverbs of the most perfect form and literary finish are found? The same state of affairs occurs in Spain. The explanation lies in the fact that in both cases the people are able to get at literature vicariously. In Persia and the east generally the professional story-teller comes to a village. In the evening the inhabitants sit around the tent and he tells them tales, many of them thousands of years old and full of the condensed wisdom of ages. In Spain the mulcteer who wanders about the country tells exactly the same position and to the literature popularized by him must be largely attributed the richness of Spanish in proverbs.

Tony Weller was the proverb-spinner of the Pickwick crowd. He got his faculty in the very same way that the Spanish mulcteer and the Persian story-teller got theirs. He met a great many people in his trips on the coach and his sayings got sharpness and clearness of outline with every fresh repetition. No doubt many of them were retailed by countless appreciative hearers.

In the same way, the Jarvey in the south of Ireland is by nature a manufacturer of proverbs. He is a part of all that he has met, and as action and reaction are equal and opposite, all that he has met becomes a part of him.

When a proverb has gained a sure place in one language, and strikes some observer of a different race and civilization, there is difficulty about transporting it bodily. If it be eastern it will have a reference that will not, for instance, appeal to westerns. What then happens is that it is localized. It is treated in the very way that names are altered in a good story to give it local color. In this way an eastern proverb about a camel becomes a western one about a horse, and so on.

## TRICKS OF TRADES.

Natural Explanation of an Unusual Way of Treating a Ladylike Shopper.

"Here, you get out of this! Don't let me catch you in this store again!" A little feminine shriek followed this rough salutation. I turned, relates a New York Herald personal pronoun, and beheld a beautiful and fashionably dressed young lady in the clutches of a tailor made man. He had torn open a tailor's bundle which he had just received from the package desk, and forced back her money into her hand, and with considerable roughness was hurrying her to the door. The face of the young woman was a picture. She looked like an angry queen. Her eyes were half aflame and half drowned in tears. Her magnificent teeth showed through the reddish kind of lips, and her clear complexion was like marble touched with the fine scarlet of flowers.

I was tempted to interfere, but having heard tales of kleptomaniacs and other strange things in these great bazaars, and knowing the man besides to be a gentlemanly floor walker—for this drama was taking place in one of the most fashionable stores in the city—I withheld my hand.

"Do I know that lady?" said the floor walker, with a laugh. "I should say I do! She is a very grand lady, indeed. My dear sir, she is one of the tricks of the trade. That bewitching lady in Paris made gown and imported bonnet is a salesgirl in the store of our enterprising neighbor on the next block. She gets eleven dollars a week. She came down here disguised as a customer, bought a dozen handkerchiefs as a blind, and proceeded to price a number of our goods in which our enterprising neighbor suspects we are underselling him. This is so as to give him a tip how to mark his goods. In short, she is a spy, and as we are not permitted to hang spies in this warfare of trade till we can do so to escort them to the picket lines and let them go. Now that this young lady has been discovered her occupation in this particular line of usefulness is gone; but our neighbor will have another rigged up in less than no time. Eternal vigilance is the price of underselling."

"But do all the big stores keep these spies, as you call them?" I asked.

"Well," said the ungalant floor walker, with a sly wink and smile, "they all of them do but ourselves."

### A Chance for Thought.

Europe has eleven million soldiers, hundreds of forts and warships, and the people are taxed hundreds of millions of dollars for armament. And yet no question of right or justice has arisen in Europe during the last fifty years which a Michigan justice of the peace could not have settled in ten minutes at a cost of three dollars.

## BEAUTY OF FORM.

The Charm of Proportions in Both Man and Woman.

Beauty of the human form is to-day exactly what it was in ancient Greece; it is the same through all the centuries, however blind we are to its characteristics through ignorance. The census of ages is a true verdict, and classic forms become safe models. Greek sculpture was wrought when the body received its highest cultivation, and was so beautiful as to be called divine, writes E. S. L. Adams in Harper's Bazar.

This sculpture should be carefully and continuously studied, as well as pictures of good nudes figures. They are to be made familiar, that one may learn why they are good, why they deserve admiration. Most people fancy they must be in imagination only, else why should they allow themselves to exemplify false standards of form, and positively distort their own God-given bodies?

Searching for the highest standards of human form, we discover that manly beauty and womanly beauty differ essentially. It is agreed that the type of manly proportion includes a comparatively large head, wide shoulders, rather square, a torso tapering to a contracted pelvis; while the whole may be seven and one-half heads in height, or an additional half-head added to the length of the legs, giving a particularly elegant figure.

On the other hand, fine proportions for a woman are a small head, shoulders rather sloping and narrow, the torso full and widest at the hips; while the front line from the sternum over the abdomen should show first a gentle, and then a full outward curve.

The conventional figure of the day is at variance with this type. Every effort is made to imitate masculine characteristics. The shoulders are thrust up high and square, or made to appear so, the torso is made to taper in, and everything under heaven is done to make the waist look small. The front line is forced to take an inward curve below the bust, and the side lines to form an awkward angle, in the hollow of which voluminous skirts are hung.

One should study sculpture with the new knowledge of these proportions most thoughtfully, till the rhythm of the lines has fastened itself upon the memory. Studying the pictures of the best artists of every age, we shall find these principles everywhere demonstrated.

The charm of womanly proportion is in the long curve from armpit to ankle, which is so different from the beauty of a manly figure. The depression at the so-called waist line—only the meeting of two large muscles which in a beautiful woman should be slight—would better be ignored in the clothing, for the sake of the greater beauty of the whole sweep.

It is to be understood that the long curves are made up of shorter contours, one gently melting into another. A form made up of graceful sweeps alone would be a weak, nervous, insipid thing.

These proportions should be so understood, and so thoroughly appreciated, as to be always in mind, else a beautiful human form will not be recognized. Use physical exercises to attain the perfection of these curves. Hang pictures showing them where they may grow into your thoughts.

## LIVED BY HER WITS.

How a Shrewd Shoplifter Utilized a Tame Rat.

"There have been many extraordinary stories told of the ingenuity of thieves in the pursuit of their nefarious calling, but a case which occurred while I was at Chatham recently beats anything I ever heard," remarked a newly-arrived Englishman to a Philadelphia Inquirer.

"A girl was brought before the police court on the charge of robbing millinery shops. She was only fourteen years of age and of very innocent appearance. What puzzled the magistrate was that none of the witnesses could recall her name, or at least they would not swear to it, although after she had left a shop where she had been making a purchase articles of value were missed. When arrested nothing was found upon her. The magistrate said he could not convict the girl upon mere suspicion, and then began to cross-examine her in a kind, fatherly way which touched her heart and she broke down and confessed that she was guilty and explained her methods to the astonishment and amusement of the court and spectators. It seems that she had a tame white rat which she carried about with her in a gulf. She would enter a shop full of girls and women and ask the price of some article, and while looking at it contrive to drop the rodent on the floor. Any one can imagine the result. Those near the door dashed into the street, while the employees jumped on the counters and chairs, wrapping their petticoats tight round their ankles and screamed like mad," as the prisoner expressed it, amid the laughter of the court, in spite of the assurances that the rat was quite tame. In the scrimmage she would quickly help herself to what she wanted, catch the rat, put it in her muff, apologize and walk off. The magistrate said that on account of her youth, and as she had voluntarily confessed to the thefts, he would give her one more chance, and bound her over in the sum of fifty pounds sterling—two hundred and fifty dollars of our money—to come up for judgment when called upon. Of course her friends soon entered the required bonds, and Mary Barton will have to find some other place to practice on the weakness of her sex. The tame-rat dodge won't work in Chatham any more."

### Last of a Famous Team.

A celebrity recently died after a kind, useful life of thirty-eight years. His name was Jesse, and the one act which entitled him to mention was participation in the funeral cortege of the martyred Lincoln. He was the last of the six white horses which drew the hearse containing the honored body along the streets of Indianapolis. His mate in the proud but sorrowful lead of the team died eight years ago.

## STREET CARS IN EUROPE.

These Are Generally Lower Than in the United States.

"I have just had a long trip through Europe looking at their street cars, or 'tram cars,' as they are called there," said a correspondent of the New York Telegram.

"In Dublin I found the street railways under one management, called the United Dublin Tramway Company. The cars carry twenty-six passengers inside and twenty on top, and by a law of the Kingdom all public conveyances are limited to their capacity. When the seats are full no more passengers are taken on, and there is none of the crowding and overloading we have in this country. The rails of the Dublin tramways are grooved and weigh ninety pounds to the yard. They are not laid on ties and sleepers, but in cement on a concrete foundation and are connected with coupling rods. The pavement, both inside and outside the track, is of granite blocks on a concrete foundation, and the seams between these blocks are filled with tar and cement, making the pavement totally impervious to water. The rails are flush with the pavement and are kept in perfect repair, so that one might drive over them with a buggy and not know that he was crossing a railway track. The fare is one penny, or two cents, for any distance inside of a mile. It is a horse system, and the speed is between eight and nine miles an hour. The horses are of a very high grade, as the Government offers a gratuity on every horse coming up to requirements that makes up the difference in the prices of a good and a poor animal. In consideration of this gratuity the Government reserves the right to take the horses owned by the tramway company for cavalry service in case of war."

"In Belfast and Glasgow the systems are similar, while Edinburgh and Birmingham have very good cable roads. In London there is the Highbury Hill cable road, and all the other roads are worked by horse power. In November last a new electric road was opened in London. The road is what is known as three or center-rail system, with the cars drawn by an engine which receives its power from the central rail, and electricity is generated from stations at the end of the road. On this line there are seventeen trains of three cars each, which leave the stopping-places at intervals of three minutes. The fare is five cents in United States money, and is paid at a turnstile. The speed is about twelve to fifteen miles an hour."

"Paris has electric cars run by the storage system, and it seems to work very well. One feature of the Italian roads worthy of attention is that there are two fares—a first-class fare, where the passengers sit inside, and a second-class, where the passengers stand outside. The difference in fare is two cents."

## WHAT WE POSSESS AND LACK.

An English Writer "Fixes Up" Americans and Their Peculiarities.

The nervous effects of the rapidly with which men and women live in the new world are accentuated by influences of climate. A certain degree of nature, grace of movement, neatness of pose, distinguish both the men and the physical products of the country. Its literature, like its beauty, is large to nervous, highly-strung, keenly susceptible organizations. American artists are dexterous in management of lights and shades; they dispose skilfully upon the canvas with the cleverness of French masters. American poets are up to the mark in graceful words and invest common life with an air of refinement. American thought is superficial, says a writer in the Edinburgh Review. Their thinkers rarely think a thing out; they are sensitive rather than forcible; they are puzzled by their difficulties as cats play with mice; they really grapple with problems and squeeze from them their little "theologians expatiate on creation, which are networks of dogmatic systems, or compounds of Puritanism with transcendental sentiment."

American humor is rarely of a rollicking kind; it is dry, not light; fine rather than deep; subtle, not broad. It depends upon quick perceptions of analogies or upon the exaggeration of facts rather than upon a broadly comical sensibility. Americans have produced no plays which deserve the name, are in power of dramatic invention the most deficient. Their voices, like their laughter, are seldom rich or rounded, as though they proceeded from hidden recesses of being. Their variety of the English language is modified so as to train time. Their utterance is rapid; they drop their voices at the end of the sentence in their hurry to reach the next; their idioms are compressed; even their spelling is clipped.

Cold, self-possessed, precocious, alert, keen-witted, Americans seem wanting in fervor, passion, repose and expansiveness. Their versatility is phenomenal, but the gift is dangerous if it dissipates powers or squanders talents. Few writers devote themselves to letters as their sole vocation with the self-devotion by which alone the highest literary work is produced. Novel writing is not undertaken by persons who have any special aptitude for the work. It forms an interlude in the literary life of writers who are also versifiers, critics, essayists, biographers and journalists.

### The Word "Jew."

"We are Jews," said the rabbi, to a New York Sun man, "and it is right to call us Jews, because of us do not like the word, because it has been used in Europe for ages as a term of contempt or derision. People often seem to be hissing when they say of a man, 'he is a Jew.' In English books, as well as in German books, the word is often used scornfully. In most European cities the Jews were compelled to live by themselves in the meanest quarters, and this also caused them to be spoken of as 'Jews.' We are called Jews because our ancient country was Judea, but we are of the Hebrew race, and some of us would rather be called Hebrews than Jews. But we will yet make the word Jew shine in the United States."

## THE FUN OF CATCHING EELS.

The Equipment Are Sometimes Caught in Peculiar Ways.

Parties travel along our shore, says the Lewiston Journal, setting traps for eels at the mouths of brooks above salt water. These consist of a roomy box of slats, with an inconspicuous entrance. The squirmers go in and stay in till they are taken out. Other parties set pots near the head of the tide. These are like lobster traps in some respects. In the end is a tunnel-shaped entrance very easy to get into. This entrance is rendered still more effective sometimes by a continuation in the shape of a stocking leg, and I have seen sharp brads driven in so as to impale the victim should he poke his head out the door. These traps are sunk to the bottom with a line and a buoy attached. Moreshoe traps are considered the best bait for eels. In the fall they pass up into rivers and ponds, sometimes in great numbers, and always in the darker, night; then the boys are on deck with gaffs.

Their winter home is in the almighty mud. Some eels in salt mud, others in the rivers. At Goose river is a spot where eels are always found just as soon as ice forms. Strangely enough, it is said to be a ledge. By quick work a bushel are sometimes speared out in a few minutes. Sparring is to me the most satisfactory method of fishing for them. An eel spear is built like Neptune's trident, with a wooden handle twelve to twenty feet long. With it the fisherman reaches to the river, if in tide water, at low water. In the fall a boat is used. In the winter the ice is cut in a semicircle, then with one clip the projecting tongue is cut off and pushed under. Now the dodging begins. The spear is jabbed in the mud gently; if it meets resistance when pulled out, the fisherman yanks it like lightning and shakes the wiggler off on the ice.

Very often in this vicinity, near the wharf and shipyard, an iron bolt, a tree nail, hoop skirt, stove funnel, bag of litters, piece of rigging, gold watch or some other trifle is hauled out, and by Christmas time the ice is covered with trash. Eels move about some in the mud, for sometimes they are caught where none was to be found the day before.

## CASH CUSTOMERS.

One Groceryman Says He Prefers Those Who Trade on Credit.

It seems very strange, but it is true, nevertheless, that customers who pay cash for their purchases are not considered very desirable by butchers or grocers, and especially those who do not send children or messengers after the goods, but go themselves and have the articles selected and weighed or measured under their personal supervision. A groceryman whom I questioned on the subject endeavored to deny that such was the fact, says a writer in the New York Telegram, but when I mentioned several instances to show that it was true, he said: "Well, we don't like them because they are too particular. They want the biggest and best of everything and then they beat down your prices as low as they can. Of course it is pleasant to get the ready money, but it comes in such small amounts that the full benefit of it is not appreciated. Besides you are never sure of a cash customer. They are not in your debt and can quit you when they feel they have a grievance. You are sure to have customers who run an account with you, though occasionally they fail to pay. But we have a way of protecting ourselves against loss," said the groceryman, with a sly smile.

"No wonder the butchers and grocers prefer customers who run a book with you," said a bookkeeper, who was keeper of my acquaintance; "it or two more on a pound for every thing is charged to the book customer, but the difference alone makes a handsome profit for the grocer. In addition to this the poorest quality goods is selected on the customer's account, as the privilege of returning a book is supposed to be a favor which the customer cannot be expected to be careless of. It is not that when the account is footed up at the end of the week or month the book is found to be much larger than was anticipated. It is not at all strange, to me, to know why grocers and butchers are willing to take chances with book customers."

## HELIOGRAPH LANGUAGE.

Signaling by This Method Is a comparatively Recent Invention.

In the dispatches from the northwest describing the movements of the troops assembled there mention was now and then made of the operations of the heliograph corps, and also of the signaling by the Indians among themselves with pieces of looking-glass. The first use of the modern system of military signaling, which was invented by Gen. A. J. Myer, of the United States army, was in the campaign against the Navajo Indians in northwestern New Mexico in 1880, says the New York Sun. Flags and torches were the means chiefly used. Signaling by reflected light has been common in many countries for a long period; the American Indian has for years used bits of looking-glass for this purpose. The perfected heliograph is comparatively a recent invention. It is a small, adjustable mirror mounted on a tripod and easily portable. When the mirror has been adjusted to reflect the light upon the station to be communicated with a movable screen is set up in front of it, and the signaling is done by revealing or obscuring the flash for shorter or longer periods, corresponding with the dots and dashes of the Morse telegraph alphabet. Signaling with the heliograph has been done successfully over a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles, and it is not uncommon to cover distances of eighty to one hundred miles. Fifty-five miles is about the ordinary average. The signal corps used the heliograph very effectively in the campaign against the Apache Indians in Arizona in 1886, and the corps has also attained remarkable results with the heliograph in other more peaceful signaling operations.

## A DOG'S WONDERFUL FIDELITY.

His Master Who Killed Him, the Dog Still Cherished His Corpse and Buried It.

"A touching incident happened in my town the other day," said a resident of Figue, O., to a reporter of the St. Louis Star-Bayings, "and one which demonstrates the instinctive fidelity of a dog."

"A neighbor of mine was the owner of a handsome Newfoundland, which he had reared from a puppy, and to which he was much attached. The dog returned his owner's affection, and was extremely fond of following him to his day's work. The master did not encourage this, but sometimes the Newfoundland would creep along stealthily in the rear until he was too far from home to be sent back, and then would come to the front with every sign of delight in his own cleverness. One morning about three weeks ago he had followed his way to a house where his master was at work upon the roof. To keep the dog from straying away the man put down his coat and dinner pail and said: 'There, old fellow, you followed me without leave and now you may stay and watch my things.' The dog lay down as he was directed and the master went to his work. In the course of the forenoon the man fell from a scaffold and was killed. His body was carried to his home, where his wife was lying ill, but no one could induce the dog to leave his post beside the coat and dinner pail. For two days he remained and refused to eat and gnashed his teeth whenever an attempt was made to remove the things of which he had been left in charge. At the end of that time the wife of the dead man, too ill to leave her bed, suggested that the dog would obey her little son, a boy of two and one-half years, just old enough to talk plainly. The boy was taken to the place, and, moved by the loss of his father and the excitement of the moment, ran to the dog, put his arms around his shaggy neck, and burst into tears. The dog seemed to understand that this was no ordinary fit of weeping. He licked the child's hair soothingly, and when the boy took up his father's coat and pail the faithful creature followed submissively at his heels, and he recognized the little one now as his master."

## ALLIGATOR AND SHARK.

They Begin a Desperate Affray, Which Was Never Finished.

A surveying corps at the mouth of the St. Sebastian river related to a gentleman, a few days ago, at Titusville, and he to a reporter of the Palatka Herald, the particulars of a most desperate encounter between an alligator and a shark at the first mentioned place. The engineers had pitched their tents near the river, and just above its mouth, and were eating their dinner under a small clump of palms.

All at once their attention was attracted to a violent commotion in the water near the shore. At first the bodies were so active and made the spray, intermingled with blood, so heavy that they could not make out what the two objects were. Finally, after about half an hour of such work, the monsters seemed to be growing weak and weary. It was then discovered to be a fight to the death between a large alligator and a man-eating shark. The former seemed to be trying to get to shallow water, while the shark was equally as determined not to go. The fight was still going on, although growing less vigorous all the time, when one of the parties got his Winchester and shot them both.

On pulling them ashore the alligator was found minus a foreleg, bit off as smooth as if cut off with a surgeon's knife. The shark had numerous ugly gashes on his body which would probably have killed him soon. The party skinned the alligator and saved some of the teeth of the shark as mementoes of this singular and sanguinary encounter.

## BOTTLES BY MACHINERY.

The First Successful Attempt to Thus Make Them in This Country.

During the last six weeks the American Bottle Company, whose works are located at Woodbury, N. J., have succeeded in making bottles by machinery, being the first successful attempt to do so in this country, says the New York Sun. The machinery used is an English invention, which has been used in that country for two years. The glass is gathered in the usual way and allowed to run from the rod into an iron cup, which measures the quantity needed for making the bottle. From below a hollow iron plunger is pushed up through the bottom of the cup and through the mass, and the cup is reversed, leaving the glass suspended from the hollow plunger. The cup, which is hinged, is then removed, and the movement of a lever admits a small quantity of air through the plunger, after which the bulb is flattened at the bottom and dropped into the mold, which is then closed and the air applied. This completes the bottle, which is taken while hot to the annealing oven.

By the old process the ring at the top of the bottle's neck was made by a second operation. By the machine the bottle comes from the mold complete. Men totally inexperienced in the handling of glass are able, it is said, after six weeks' practice, to turn out as much as an experienced blower with a blowpipe.

### Private Art Collections in Rome.

The Italian government having abolished the law of succession, by virtue of which the great private art collections in Rome descended to the eldest son of each family with the bulk of the parental fortune, these famous collections are now in danger of being scattered among the children, and the expense of maintaining the galleries for the public benefit falls heavily upon the head of the family. Several owners having sold some of their finest works to defray these expenses, the government is alarmed at the prospect of the national masterpieces leaving the country and is considering measures to prevent it, and keep the galleries open to the public.